

HOWARTH et al. -- 09/601,695  
Attorney Docket: 011765-0302012

IN THE ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE:

Please insert the following abstract:

A scheduling means for data switching apparatus includes a plurality of input ports and a plurality of output ports, the scheduling means capable of processing a plurality of interconnection requests, each requesting interconnection between a sub-set of the input ports and a sub-set of respective the output ports, and each request having a respective priority level which is one of a predetermined number of priority levels. The scheduling means includes determination means for determining a first set of requests selected from the plurality of requests, according to the respective priority levels; a first pipeline stage for receiving only the first set of requests and satisfying at least one of the first set of requests; a priority mixer for determining a further set of requests independently of the priority levels, the further set including requests of the first set which were not satisfied and requests included in the plurality of requests which were not part of the first set and which are of any of the priority levels, and an additional pipeline stage for identifying requests in the further set which can be satisfied, and for satisfying the identified requests.